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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, OPRC, HA
SUBJECT: HAITI: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING, MARCH 23

REF: (A) 88 PORT AU PR 01430,
(B) 88 PORT AU PR 01596,
(C) 88 PORT AU PR 01605

1. SEPTEL REPORTS RESULTS OF FIRST SESSION OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S TWO-PART HEARING ON HAITI WHERE PRIVATE WITNESSES TESTIFIED. DEPARTMENT WITNESS AND POSSIBLY SEN. GRAHAM OF FLORIDA WILL TESTIFY AT THE SECOND HEARING MARCH 23.

2. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS HAVE ADVISED ARA THAT A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION (EFFECT OF LAW IF ENACTED AS OPPOSED TO REGULAR RESOLUTION WITH "SENSE OF CONGRESS") IMPOSING FURTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON HAITI WILL BE INTRODUCED MARCH 15. WE ARE ADVISED THAT THAT RESOLUTION MAY CONTAIN LANGUAGE ON THE ORDER OF "CBI BENEFITS

INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR TEXTILE EXPORTS WILL BE DENIED TO HAITI IF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE NOT HELD WITHIN ONE YEAR." THUS THE MARCH 23 HEARING WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON THE RESOLUTION WITH DISCUSSION ON THE BEST METHOD OF ENCOURAGING HAITI TO MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY.

3. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE INFORMATION PROVIDED REF (A); IT WILL BE USED IN OUR STATEMENT. ECONOMIC INFORMATION PROVIDED REFS B AND C ALSO VERY HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE IMPACT OF FURTHER SANCTIONS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION PREFERABLY IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT FOR BRIEFING MATERIAL AS OPPOSED TO DIRECT INPUT TO A STATEMENT. SOME QUESTIONS OF INTEREST ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. POLITICAL SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WHAT HAS MANIGAT DONE TO MOVE HAITI ALONG THE PATH TO DEMOCRACY? HAS HAITI DONE ANYTHING TO MERIT OUR NOT IMPOSING FURTHER SANCTIONS?

DOES MANIGAT HAVE CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY OR IS THE MILITARY STILL RUNNING THE COUNTRY?

HAS HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IMPROVED?

ARE THERE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON INVESTIGATING NOVEMBER 29 KILLINGS?

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WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUR BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE GOH
TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS?

B. NARCOTICS

WHAT HAS GOH DONE ABOUT THE INDICTMENT OF COL. PAUL? WHAT
HAS BEEN THE LOCAL IMPACT OF OUR INDICTMENT?

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP HAITI COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT OF HAITIANS IN NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING? WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF CORRUPTION WITHIN THE
GOH AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE MILITARY IN DRUG
TRAFFICKING?

C. PARLIAMENT

WHAT IS EMBASSY'S PERCEPTION OF NEW PARLIAMENT?

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS OF NEW PARLIAMENT COULD BE
CONSIDERED DUVALIERIST?

D. FINANCES

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE CUTOFF OF US AID ON THE
OPERATING CAPABILITY OF THE GOH?

ARE ANY COUNTRIES INCREASING THEIR AID PROGRAMS TO HAITI?

WHAT FOLLOWUP CAN YOU PROVIDE ON PLANNED STRIKES BY HEALTH
WORKERS?

HAVE GOVERNMENT WORKERS BEEN PAID THIS YEAR?

E. FURTHER SANCTIONS

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF A CUTOFF IN CBI BENEFITS? GSP?
OPIC BENEFITS?

HOW MANY JOBS WOULD BE LOST BY THE ABOVE?

HOW WOULD AMERICAN INVESTORS BE AFFECTED?

HOW MANY ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE ASSEMBLY SECTOR?
HAVE ANY FIRMS PULLED OUT SINCE NOVEMBER 29?

D. GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

WHAT IS THE BASIC ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HAITI AND WHAT IS
THE BASIC CONDITION OF THE AVERAGE HAITIAN?

ANY RUNUP IN PRICES PARTICULARLY DUE TO SHORTAGES?

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